

# chateau TUMBLEWEED

## 2019 Sierra Bonita Vineyard Cabernet Franc

### Background:

This is just our second year working with fruit from Sierra Bonita Vineyard. We initially became interested in the site after tasting their Cabernet Sauvignon at a wine festival in 2012 or 2013. Turns out, their Cabernet Franc is pretty spectacular too! Because the vineyard is located in a cooler location (on the northernmost boundary of the Willcox AVA), the wines have amazing restraint, great acidity and an interesting depth of fruit. This is classic Cab Franc with a near perfect balance of spice and bright red fruit along with a great interplay of acid and tannin. This wine was meant for food and should age well over the next few years. The more we taste it, the more we feel like it might be one of the best wines of the vintage! Only three barrels produced.

### Varietal Composition and Appellation/Fruit Sourcing:

*Willcox AVA – Graham County, AZ*

*99% Cabernet Franc from Sierra Bonita Vineyard.*

*Graham County, AZ. 4,400 ft. elevation. Harvested Oct. 2nd*

*1% Cabernet Sauvignon from Sierra Bonita Vineyard.*

*Graham County, AZ. 4,400 ft. elevation. Harvested Sept. 31st*

*Sugar at harvest: 25.3 Brix*

### Cellar Notes:

Destemmed but not crushed to open-top,  $\frac{3}{4}$ -ton bins. Lot was left ~25% whole cluster. Inoculated with specially selected yeasts (MT, BDX, Clos, UV43). Hand punched 3-4 times daily. Inoculated with Malolactic bacteria (Omega) around 11 Brix. Pressed at dryness after 12 days skin contact. Settled 16 days before barreling.

### Aging:

Aged 18 months in 100% 3-year-old French oak barrels (Francois Freres Cooperage). Thrice racked. Filtered, but unfined.

### Stats:

pH: 3.74

TA: 6.0 g/L

RS: <0.10%

Alcohol: 14.4%

Production: 74 cases

Drink now or cellar 5+ years

Winemaker: Joe Bechard

